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Sullivan Creek Project Negotiation Team Seventh Mediated Session

On June 3, 4, and 5, 2009, the seventh mediated session of the settlement negotiation team for the surrender of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the Sullivan Creek Hydroelectric Project met in Spokane Valley, Washington. The negotiation team, which is made up of a mix of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, the Pend Oreille Public Utility District, local officials, and representatives of the local community, is working with the help of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to find options for resolving the issues for surrender of the Project license.

At the seventh mediated session, the team heard presentations from the workgroups on Mill Pond bathymetry and sediments, bull trout history and lifecycle, and instream flow for Sullivan Creek. Other studies are still ongoing. The sediment study showed that there is no toxicity in the Mill Pond sediments. The team is continuing to develop a package of items for lake management that would meet the needs and interests of all of the stakeholders, including community interests (both recreation-oriented and economic), cabin owners, fishing enthusiasts, conservationists, tourists, boaters, and swimmers. The team also is exploring different sources of funding for special enhancement projects.

The next mediation session is scheduled for July 8-9, 2009, at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Spokane, Washington. The public is welcome to attend the mediation sessions if they are willing to sign the Observer Agreement. Anyone wishing to attend should notify Gail Brooks at brooks@ecr.gov or (520) 901-8532 so that she can plan the room logistics. A copy of the Observer Agreement is available on the project website and upon request.

Information on the project is available at the project's website: <http://sullivancreek.ecr.gov>.

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